



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 5/1/2013
Agenda Placement: 10A

Napa County Planning Commission Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Planning Commission
FROM: Charlene Gallina for Hillary Gitelman - Director
Planning, Building and Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Kirsty Shelton, Planner - 299-1377
SUBJECT: Green House Gas Emissions Best Management Practices

RECOMMENDATION

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs): The Board of Supervisors directed staff to work with stakeholders on a list of "best practices" that could be used by project applicants and the Planning Commission to reduce project-related GHG emissions during the time it takes to develop a revised Climate Action Plan. Staff will begin discussions with stakeholders on April 25, 2013 and would like to provide an update to the Commission.

Staff Recommendation: This is an informational presentation and discussion item; no action is requested at this time.

Staff Contact: Hillary Gitelman, Director, 253-4805; Kirsty Shelton, Planner 707-299-1377.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Planning Commission considered the proposed Climate Action Plan (CAP) at their meeting of January 18, 2012 and recommended adoption by the Board of Supervisors. After almost a year long trial period, the Board of Supervisors considered adoption of the plan at their meeting of December 11, 2012. At that time, the Board declined to adopt the CAP, instead directing staff to seek additional emission reductions from transportation sources and investigate other issues raised during the hearing. The Board also requested that the Planning Commission develop and apply a list of "best management practices" to reduce green house gas emissions from development projects while the CAP is being revised and reconsidered for possible adoption.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no proposed action and therefore is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Staff has developed a draft list of "best management practices" for discussion with stakeholders and the Planning Commission. The Draft GHG BMP document uses a point system based on quantifiable data sources, and would allow staff to keep track of overall GHG emission reductions for use in a future Climate Action Plan. The Commission could use the number of BMPs proposed by each project to define its "sustainability" and use the total points to define how much the project reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Staff is interested in Commission input on the BMPs and will provide a summary of input from the stakeholders' meeting of April 25th. At the point the stakeholders are comfortable with the details of the content, staff will bring the document to the Commission for a more robust discussion most likely at the second meeting of May. The list of "best management practices" is envisioned as a living document that can be adjusted and updated by the Commission as it evaluates specific project proposals. The BMPs would ultimately be subsumed within or supplanted by a revised Climate Action Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

Napa County Planning Commission: Approve

Reviewed By: John McDowell